of merchants by Professor Unwin,[71] In 1630-1 it issued in an amended form the Elizabethan Book of Orders, instructing justices as to their duty to see that markets were served and prices controlled, appointed a special committee of the Privy Council as Commissioners of the Poor and later a separate Commission, and issued a Book of Orders for the better administration of the Poor Law. In 1629, 1631, and again in 1637, it took steps to secure that the wages of textile workers in East Anglia were raised, and punished with imprisonment in the Fleet an employer notorious for paying in truck. As President of the Council of the North, Wentworth protected the commoners whose vested interests were threatened by the drainage of Hatfield Chase, and endeavoured to insist on the stricter administration of the code regulating the woollen industry."

Such action, even if inspired largely by the obvious interest of the Government, which had enemies enough on its hands already, in preventing popular discontent, was of a kind to appeal to one with Laud's indifference to the opinion of the wealthier classes, and with Laud's belief in the divine mission of the House of David to teach an obedient people " to lay down the private for the public sake." It is not surprising, therefore, when the Star Chamber fines an engrosser of corn, to find him improving the

occasion with the remark that the defendant has been " guilty of a most foule offence, which the Prophet hath [called] in a very energeticall phrase grynding the faces of the poore," and that the dearth has been caused, not by God, but by " cruell men " ;[T1] or taking part in the proceedings of the Privy Council at a time when it is pressing justices, apparently not without success, to compel the East Anglian clothiers to raise the wages of spinners and weavers ; or serving on the Lincoln-shire sub-committee of the Commission on the Relief of the Poor, which was appointed in January i 631 .[T4]

" A bishop/' observed Laud, in answer to the attack of